



State of New Jersey
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 PO Box 500
 TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
 Governor
 KIM GUADAGNO
 Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
 Acting Commissioner

May 7, 2012

TO: Chief School Administrators
 Charter School Lead Person

FROM: Christopher D. Cerf, Acting Commissioner 

SUBJECT: **NJ Safer Schools for a Better Tomorrow (SSBT) State Initiative – Making Our Schools Safe (M.O.S.S.) Districts**

On April 20, 2012, the Governor’s School Security Task Force (SSTF) announced a state-wide initiative – **Safer Schools for a Better Tomorrow (SSBT)**. The NJ Department of Education (NJ DOE) is partnering with the Governor’s School Security Task Force and leading the nation in implementing best practices for school safety and preparedness.

As part of the Governor’s SSBT Initiative, the department is working with districts and identifying needs and areas of improvement. To begin, NJDOE’s Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning (OSPEP) will offer targeted technical assistance (TA) to over 25 percent of New Jersey’s school districts. Approximately 166 school districts will be designated as **Making Our Schools Safe (M.O.S.S.) Districts**. These districts collectively will comprise a cadre of schools that will inform the state of school preparedness in New Jersey. The M.O.S.S. Districts will be divided into three tiers and will receive direct TA over the next two (2) years.

The M.O.S.S. districts are in the following table. In accordance with the release of the LEA Minimum Requirements on August 2011 and the SSBT Initiative, each district will now work collaboratively with OSPEP. During this time, M.O.S.S. Districts will receive guidance from OSPEP and the Governor’s SSTF over their scheduled eight (8) month timeframe. Within the next few weeks, you will receive correspondence from Anthony Bland, State Coordinator with the OSPEP.

We are confident a comprehensive and collaborative approach will dramatically enhance New Jersey’s school preparedness efforts to ensure academic success. If you have any questions regarding your involvement in M.O.S.S. or the SSBT Initiative, please contact OSPEP at (609) 631-4531 or (609) 633-6681 or via email at schoolsecurity@doe.state.nj.us.

CDC/AB/pp:mossar nouncementmay72012
 c: Members, State Board of Education
 Andrew Smarick Deputy Commissioner
 Senior Staff
 Diane Shoener
 Justin Barra
 Anthony Bland
 Executive County Superintendents

NJ Lee Group
 Garden State Coalition of Schools
 Jeffrey S. Chiesa, Attorney General
 Michelle Miller, Deputy Attorney General
 Michael Walters, Deputy Attorney General
 Dennis Quinn, OHSP, Chief of Staff
 Members, School Security Task Force



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

M.O.S.S. Districts

TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
June 2012 - January 2013	March 2013 - October 2013	January 2014 - August 2014
Academy for Urban Leadership Charter High School (Firth Amboy)	Belvidere School District	Arete Charter School (Orange)
Asbury Park School District	Bound Brook School District	Carteret School District
Atlantic City Community Charter School (Atlantic City)	Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District	chARTer~TECH High School for the Performing Arts (Somers Point)
Atlantic City Public Schools	Bright Horizon Charter School (Penns Grove-Carneys Point)	Community Charter School of Paterson (Paterson)
Audubon School District	Camden Community Charter School (Camden)	Cranford Public School District
Bayonne Public Schools	Clayton Public Schools	Discovery Charter School (Newark)
Benjamin Banneker Preparatory Charter School (Willingboro)	Clifton Public Schools	Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School (Jersey City)
Bernards Township School District	Collingswood Public Schools	DREAM Preparatory Academy Charter High School (Jersey City)
Bridgeton Public Schools	Excellence Charter School (Camden)	Fair Lawn Public Schools
Buena Regional School District	Florence Twp School District	Fairfield Twp School District
Burlington City Public Schools	Forest Hill Charter School (Newark)	Foundation Academy Charter School (Trenton)
Camden City Public Schools	Franklin Twp School District (Hunterdon)	Global Visions Charter School (Egg Harbor Twp.)
Dover Public Schools	Garfield Public School District	Gloucester Twp School District
East Orange School District	Gloucester Co Vocational- Technical School District	Great Oaks Charter School (Newark)
Edison Twp Public Schools	Hamilton Twp. (Atlantic)	Hackettstown Public Schools
Elizabeth Public Schools	Harrison Public Schools	Hatikvah International Academy Charter School (East Brunswick)
Ewing Twp. School District	Jackson School District	High Point Regional High School District



State of New Jersey
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 PO Box 500
 TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

M.O.S.S. Districts (cont'd)

TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
June 2012 - January 2013	March 2013 - October 2013	January 2014 - August 2014
Freedom Academy Charter School (Camden)	Lacey Township School District	Hoboken Dual Language Charter School (Hoboken)
Gateway Regional School District	Lenape Regional High School District	Holmdel Twp. Public Schools
Hamilton Twp. School District	Liberty Academy Charter School (Jersey City)	Hunterdon Central Regional High School
Hoboken School District	Linden Public Schools	Institute for Excellence Charter School (Hammonton)
Hunterdon County Education Services Commission	Long Branch Public School	Institute for Excellence Charter School (Winslow Twp.)
Irvington School District	Lower Alloways Creek Twp School District	John P. Holland Charter School (Paterson)
Jersey City Public Schools	Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School (Newark)	Keansburg School District
Lakewood School District	Marion P. Thomas Charter School (Newark)	Kingdom Charter School for Leadership (Gloucester Twp.)
Lawnside School District	Martha Palmer Chaneyfield Charter School (Newark)	Little Falls Twp Public School District
Matawan- Aberdeen Regional School District	Middletown Township Public Schools	M.E.T.S. Charter School (Jersey City)
Millville Public Schools	Morris School District	Mahwah Twp. Public Schools
New Brunswick Public Schools	Neptune Twp School District	Manville School District
New Horizons Community Charter School (Newark)	New Day Charter High School (Newark)	Middle Twp School District
Newark Public School District	Newark Educators Community Charter School (Newark)	Millville Public Charter School (Millville)
North Plainfield School District	Newton Public School District	Newark Legacy Charter School (Newark)



State of New Jersey
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 PO Box 500
 TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor
 KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

M.O.S.S. Districts (cont'd)

TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
June 2012 - January 2013	March 2013 - October 2013	January 2014 - August 2014
Paterson Public Schools	North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional HS District	Nutley Public School District
Pennsauken School District	Ocean City School District	Parsippany-Troy Hills Twp Schools
Perth Amboy Public Schools	Oceanside Charter School (Atlantic City)	Pemberton Twp. Schools
Phillipsburg School District	Old Bridge Twp School District	Pennsville School District
Plainfield Public Schools	Orange Public School District	People's Preparatory Charter School (Newark)
Pleasantville Public School District	PACE Charter School of Hamilton (Hamilton)	Pride Academy Charter School (East Orange)
Ridgewood Public Schools	Pascack Valley Regional High School District	Princeton International Academy Charter School
Salem City School District	Passaic Arts and Science Charter School (Passaic)	Promise Charter School for Excellence (Linden)
Teaneck Public Schools	Passaic City Public Schools	Renaissance Regional Leadership Charter School (Wrightstown)
The Barack Obama (Green Charter High School (Plainfield)	Paul Robeson Charter School for the Humanities (Trenton)	Riverbank Charter School of Excellence (Roebling)
Toms River Regional Schools	Rahway Public Schools	Roseville Community Charter School (Newark)
Trenton Public Schools	Ridge and Valley Charter School (Blairstown)	Scotch-Plains Fanwood Public School
Union City Public Schools	Shalom Academy Charter School (Englewood)	Southern Regional School District
Vernon Twp. School District	The Ethical Community Charter School (Jersey City)	Sparta Twp Public Schools
Vineland Public Schools	The School District of South-Orange Maplewood	Spirit Preparatory Charter School (Newark)
Visions Academy Charter High School (Newark)	Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School	Vailsburg Prep Charter School (Newark)



State of New Jersey
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 PO Box 500
 TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

M.O.S.S. Districts (cont'd)

TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
June 2012 - January 2013	March 2013 - October 2013	January 2014 - August 2014
Warren Hills Regional School District	Village Charter School (Trenton) Placed on probation	Woodbridge Twp School District
Washington Twp Public School District	Vineland Public Charter School (Vineland)	Woodbury City Public Schools
Wayne Public Schools	Willingboro Academy Charter School (Willingboro)	Woodland Twp. School District
West New York School District		New Jersey Virtual Academy Charter School (Newark)
Wildwood City School District		New Jersey Virtual Charter School
Willingboro Public School District		
Winslow Twp School District		
Woodstown-Pilesgrove Reg School District		